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netics of the language seem, as does the grammar, to be closer to the Melanesian than to the Polynesian languages. These Melanesian similarities are in many respects closer than are those of the various Caroline dialects. As stated by the author, surds and sonants are not clearly distinguished, but the former are nearer to the actual sounds. The sounds of the r-l-d group are almost interchangeable, or at least separated from one another with difficulty. This recalls the frequency of the equivalence of these sounds in the languages of Malaysia. Apparently words beginning with a consonant are relatively abundant.

The dictionary is primarily intended for the use of persons desiring to become missionaries among the people of the islands. If so, it seems curious that some provision was not made for at least a short list of the commonest words in English-Gilbertese. The arrangement wholly under the Gilbertese-English alphabet makes the use of the dictionary almost impossible for anyone wishing to learn the language, or for students who desire to compare Gilbertese forms with those in use elsewhere. The author states in the preface, that the dictionary contains, in addition to the words of Gilbert origin, several hundred Gilbertized English and Hebrew words derived from the Bible translations. One cannot help thinking, in turning the pages of the dictionary, that it is hardly necessary to introduce into the language of these people so many words of wholly foreign origin and no meaning to the people themselves. Such words as pygarg, bdellium, cor, gier, gnu, etc., seem wholly unnecessary. The great mass of the terms included in the dictionary, however, i. e., those of purely native origin, will be of much service to all students of the linguistic puzzles of this most interesting region, and all must be most grateful to the author for the great labor which he has undertaken in preparing so complete a dictionary.

R. B. DIXON.

*Melanesians and Polynesians. Their Life-Histories described and compared.*  
By GEORGE BROWN, D.D. London: Macmillan and Co., 1910. Pp. xv, 451.

Adequate descriptions of the savage peoples of Melanesia during the early period of their contact with European nations are rare. Most of our information relative to this area dates from the last two decades. This volume, therefore, is most welcome in that it gives us observations made some thirty or forty years ago. The title of the book hardly gives an exact idea of the real character of the volume. Under the caption of "Melanesians and Polynesians," the author, an English missionary, has brought together a large mass of valuable material derived from

personal observations, and relating to the peoples of the Bismarck Archipelago (especially Duke of York and the adjacent part of New Britain) and the Solomon group in Melanesia, and Samoa in Polynesia. Incidentally, some material from portions of British New Guinea, the New Hebrides, and elsewhere is also introduced. So far as the Bismarck Archipelago is concerned, the author was one of the very first white men to come into close contact with the natives.

Taking the volume as a whole, the greatest value must undoubtedly be placed upon the Melanesian material. Samoa has been so often described, both by early navigators and missionaries, and by later investigators such as Krämer, that the author adds but little that is really new to our information. The plan of the book, which is that of comparing under various headings, such as Childhood, Religion, Government, Laws, etc., the Melanesian and Polynesian peoples, is a good one. From a strictly scientific point of view, a somewhat differing grouping of subjects might have been recommended.

Of the large number of subjects treated, the descriptions of the Duk duk and Iniet societies, the details on social organization and burial customs, and the accounts of the use of money, will doubtless be found of greatest interest. The author recognizes the traces of totemic organization in Samoa recently definitely established by Rivers, and adds an interesting bit of evidence of the two-class system from Ongtong-Java. In details, it is inevitable that the volume should suffer by comparison with the recent works of Graebner, Stephan, Meyer, Parkinson, von Pfeil, and others. Had the author published his book fifteen years ago, it would have contained a mass of wholly new material; as it is, the material is now no longer new. Yet, although the more recent observers have written in greater detail of much that is described by Dr Brown, his work supplements theirs on more than one occasion with valuable additions, and, as a whole, serves unquestionably as the most excellent treatise in English upon the area covered.

The author's general conclusions on the origin and migration of the Polynesian and Melanesian peoples are mainly in accord with the present trend of opinion. He sees in the Melanesians, an early wave of peoples coming from somewhere in southwestern Asia, who were followed much later by the Polynesians. The latter, prior to their leaving the mainland or before leaving Indonesia, were influenced more or less by contact with early Indo-European (Hindu) culture.

In conclusion, a word should be said in regard to the illustrations. These are numerous, and excellent, and add to the value of a volume

otherwise of much service to the student of Oceanic and particularly Melanesian culture.

R. B. DIXON.

*The Chimariko Indians and Language.* By ROLAND B. DIXON. University of California Publications in American Archaeology and Ethnology, vol. 5, no. 5, pp. 293-380. Berkeley: The University Press, 1910.

In this paper Dr Dixon gives us another study of the ethnographic region in which he is a recognized authority, that of northern California. Unlike the Maidu, Shasta, Achomawi, and Atsugewi, however, with which tribes Dr Dixon has heretofore concerned himself, the Chimariko no longer exist as a distinct tribe, but linger on in only two aged individuals; from one of these, Mrs Dyer, and from a man named Friday, who, though not a Chimariko, had formerly been in close touch with the tribe, the material presented in the paper was gathered in 1906. As indicated by its title, the paper falls into two parts, the first dealing with culture (pp. 295-306), the second with language (pp. 307-380). The topic of culture, discussed under the heads of territory and history, material culture, social organization, and religion, is necessarily very fragmentary and calls for no particular comment.

The linguistic portion is fuller than the ethnologic, but as the grammatical material obtained was fragmentary, and the few texts that are given are confused and unsatisfactory, many points of importance remain obscure. It would be wholly unfair to judge Dr Dixon's work as one might a grammatical treatise laying claim to completeness. The circumstances under which the material was secured were such that it seems rather in order to thank Dr Dixon for having rescued as much of the Chimariko language as he did. The linguistic material is discussed by him under the heads of phonetics, reduplication, composition, pronoun, noun, verb, adjectives, numerals, postpositions, connectives, and order of words.

There seem to be two series of stopped consonants, surds and sonants; judging from such not far distant linguistic stocks as Takelma, Athapaskan, and Yana, in which aspirated surds and "intermediates" but no true sonant stops are found, one may be permitted to surmise that Dr Dixon's sonants are really intermediates, as he himself expressly states for *b*. It is surprising to find that no distinct series of "fortes" or checked stops is credited to Chimariko, the more so as not only the three stocks already referred to but also the immediately adjoining Wintun and Shastan (as represented by Achomawi) possess these consonants, as the reviewer